

- (ii) As a special drive, FCI has hired 80,000 tonnes storage capacity from State Warehousing Corporation, Central Warehousing Corporation and private parties.
- (iii) Storage worthy godowns available in Orissa including defunct godowns of Spinning mills and Oil mills have been hired by FCI.
- (iv) FCI has evacuated 1,58,000 tonnes of foodgrains from Bargarh, Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Bolangir during the last six months. Besides, FCI has stopped movement of rice from outside of Orissa from January, 2001.

Streamlining the Defence procurement and intelligence

1994. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to streamline defence procurement and intelligence; and
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee, and to formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM consisted of the Home Minister, the Raksha Mantri, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister. The GoM had after careful consideration of various issues formulated a comprehensive Report titled 'Reforming the National Security System', which was presented to the Prime Minister on February 26, 2001. The GoM has *inter alia* recommended creation of a Defence Procurement Board, which will undertake the entire gamut of procurement functions and also strengthening of the mechanism for gathering of intelligence and subsequent analysis and dissemination. The recommendations of the GoM relating to these two areas have been approved by the Government on May 11, 2001. Implementation of the recommendations of the GoM has already commenced. In order to ensure that the recommendations are

implemented in a time bound manner, the implementation process is being closely monitored by the Government.

Improvement of NH-44 by Border Road Organisation

1995. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Border Road Organisation has drawn a time bound action plan for improvement and maintenance of National Highway No. 44 which is the only highway link of Tripura with rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate funds have been earmarked for upgradation and maintenance, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan to link Tripura with other States through another highway link to be constructed by the Border Road Organisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when this link is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NH-44 is to be improved to NH double lane width. Double laning work of this highway falling in Tripura State (195 kms.) is planned for commencement during 2001-2002 and is proposed to be completed by 2010. The stretch from Agartala to Sabroom (135 Kms.) which is an extension of NH-44, is under development to NH intermediate lane width since 1997-98 and is proposed to be completed by March, 2003, excluding major bridges.

(c) Yes, Sir. For upgradation and maintenance of NH-44 (including its extension) the following funds have been provided:—

1995-1996	—	Rs. 1670.77 Lacs
1996-1997	—	Rs. 1582.62 Lacs
1997-1998	—	Rs. 1146.68 Lacs
1998-1999	—	Rs. 2688.00 Lacs